

A new species of *Aequatorium* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) from Peru

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Abstract

Aequatorium pascoense (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) a new species is described from Peru with opposite leaves and quadrangular branches, with an illustration and a key to the opposite-leaved species of *Aequatorium*.

Resumen

Aequatorium pascoense (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) una especie nueva con hojas opuestas y tallos cuadrangulares es descrita e ilustrada para el Perú, se presenta una clave par las especies de *Aequatorium* con hojas opuestas.

Aequatorium pascoense H. BELTRÁN & H. ROB., sp. nov.

Type: PERU, Dpto. Pasco. Prov. Oxapampa. Rail to summit of Cordillera Yanachaga, via Río San Daniel, 75° 27' W, 10° 23' S, 2600 m, 18 Jul 1984. Primary high montane forest; quite moist, heavy epiphyte and bryophyte load on trunks, shrub 4 m, flowers yellow, D. N. SMITH & H. BOTIGER 7884 (Holotype: USM; isotypes: AMAZ, MO, US). – Fig. 1.

A speciebus congeneribus in foliis oppositis sessilibus base saepe subauriculatis distincta.

Shrub to small tree, laxly branched; stems strongly quadrangular, sulcate, glabrate, with nodes conspicuous. Leaves opposite, sessile; blades subcoriaceous, narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, 15–21 cm long, 4.5–6.0 cm wide, slightly auriculate at base, slightly amplexicaul, sometimes slightly narrowed above base, margins with numerous minute denticulations, apex acute with a mucro (mucronulate), upper surface pale green, glabrate, lower surface sparsely pilose with short, slightly branched hairs; venation pinnate, veins ca. 10 spreading oblique (at 80° angles), arching and anastomosing. Inflorescence terminal on branches, 10–14 cm high, 13–16

cm wide; peduncles 2–4 mm long. Heads campanulate, radiate, 6–7 mm high, 3–4 mm wide; subinvolucral and calycular bracts 5 or 6, 5–6 mm long, 3.0–3.5 mm wide, apices acute, margins scarious. Ray florets 2 or 3; corollas yellow, glabrate, tube ca. 3 mm long, limb elliptical, ca. 4 mm long, 1.5 mm wide, wider above, apex tridentate. Disk florets 3; corollas yellow, 6–7 mm long, glabrous, tube 3–4 mm long, throat narrowly campanulate, ca. 1.5 mm long, lobes narrowly oblong, ca. 2 mm long, with apex acute; anther collar ca. 0.4 mm long; thecae ca. 2 mm long; apical appendage 0.4–0.5 mm long and 0.2 mm wide; style branches stigmatic on whole inner surface, sometimes depressed along middle, 1.8–2.0 mm long, 0.2–0.3 mm wide, tips acute with short apical pencil of hairs. Achenes submature, ca 1.8 mm long, glabrous; pappus 6–7 mm long, with bristles in 2 series.

Aequatorium pascoense is the third known member of the genus with consistently opposite leaves (NORDENSTAM 1997; ROBINSON & CUATRECASAS 1992). The other two species, *A. limonense* B. NORD. of Ecuador and *A. cajamarcense* H. ROB. & CUATREC. of Peru both have distinct petioles.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

Key to the species of *Aequatorium* with opposite leaves.

1. Leaves petiolate; branches only slightly quadrangular.
 2. Leafblades elliptical, 6–12 cm long, base obtuse *A. cajamarcense*
 2. Leafblades elliptical, 7–18 cm long, base cordate *A. limonense*
1. Leaves sessile, often slightly auriculate, branches distinctly quadrangular
 *A. pascoense*

Acknowledgement

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References

- NORDENSTAM, B. 1997. The genus *Aequatorium* B. NORD. (Compositae-Senecioneae) in Ecuador. *Comp. Newsl.* 31: 1–16.
- ROBINSON, H. & J. CUATRECASAS 1992. Additions to *Aequatorium* and *Gynoxys* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. *Novon* 2: 411–416.

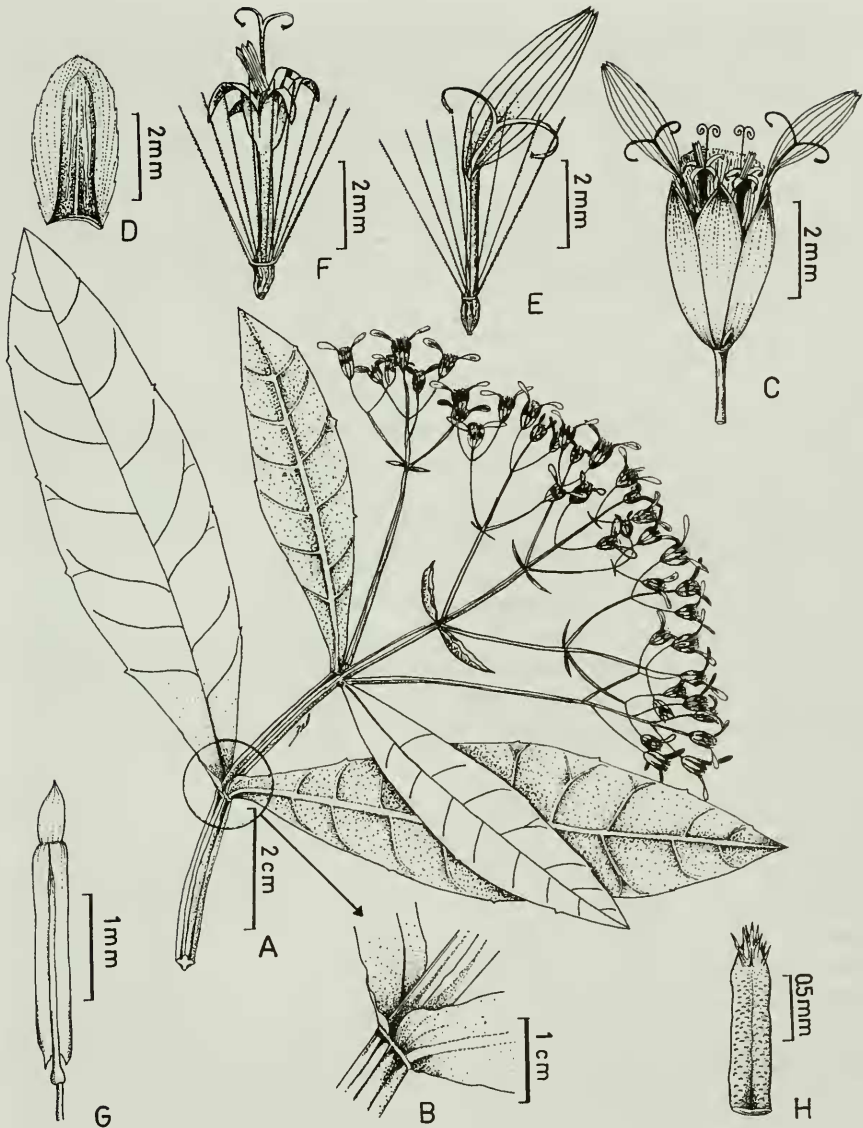


Fig.1. *Aequatorium pascoense* H. BELTRÁN & H. ROB.

A. Flowering branch. **B.** Enlarged leaf with slightly auriculate base. **C.** Capitulum. **D.** Involucral bract. **E.** Ray floret. **F.** Disk floret. **G.** Anther. **H.** Style branch.
 Drawn from D. N. SMITH & BOTIGER 7884 (USM).